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into its physical construction like the curse that kept the Jew of fable a wanderer. Periodically the city is rent and upheaved in unison with the surrounding changes of tide. Here one does not need to live his three score years and ten to see the city of his youth slip away from him. Even his *Alma Mater* packs her trunks and moves about too rapidly to foster the undying home spirit among her sons—my college has lived in three houses since my freshman year. How I envy the sons of Harvard, Yale, and all the rest who can go back and be young again for one brief moment! Is not this the reason why so many of Columbia's sons, in spite of the magnificent opportunities she offers, send their sons elsewhere because they realize the value of associations they have missed?"

Throughout the volume are found passages suggestive, wise, witty, tender, helpful. There is a feeling sometimes that things develop so comfortably as to be created for the purpose, and the style is undoubtedly loose; but the meat is in the nut, and we say with another reviewer: "The Commuter's Wife is one we would be glad to number among our friends."

THE THOUGHTLESS THOUGHTS OF CARISABEL. By Isa Carrington Cabell.
New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1903.

In this collection of "Thoughtless Thoughts" Isa Carrington Cabell, who is by no means an unknown writer, shows the result of an almost omnivorous reading, a daring wit, a quick sense of humor, all showing the point of view, though absolutely—except in one irrepressible touch on the "nē-groes"—without sectionalism, of a Southern gentlewoman, as she herself confesses, of the old régime.

To touch lightly on the different treatments, attention might be called to some uncommonly bright thoughts on the new man, who, she thinks, is gradually reaching the position nature intended him for, and in establishing this she proves incontrovertibly that he is particularly fitted to excel in three occupations, "those of cook, lady's maid, and nurse." In "The New Child" she holds up to sprightly ridi-

cule the ponderous psychological teachings anent this interesting being of Prof. Rowe, of New Haven; and she grieves sympathetically with the mother in a day when to squills and hot-water bags must be added "the ergograph and the sphygmometer." Mannerism in conversation is keenly suggestive; the closing of the chapter on the "Motive of Travel" shows deep sympathy and poetry of feeling. "Love's Catechism," "Should Women Propose?" "Do Men Propose?" "How Belinda Had the Grippe," and the "New Etiquette" are full of a lively sense of the ridiculous and a pungent habit of commenting thereon. In "The Cult of Being Busy" and "Nervous Prostration" she scarcely rises with her usual sprightliness to grasp the opportunity.

Appreciation must be expressed of the taste and dignity with which the publishers have dressed the volume. Where so much is pleasant it is unfortunate to see more than one indication of oversight, as in confounding Verlaine with Villon in quoting, writing "The Blessed Damosel" as *Demoiselle*, and others.

ROUND ANVIL ROCK. By Nancy Huston Banks. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1903.

This, a long story of Southern Kentucky by the author of "Oldfield," is meant to be a series of pictures of Kentucky's history nearly a hundred years ago, centering about the old Wilderness Road, and its legends of lawlessness associated with the mysterious figure of Philip Alston, Gentleman. As material we have the "Road" itself; the Kentucky Wilderness; the fervid Camp Meeting; the Dance in the Forest in Indian Summer with the country fiddlers; the Log Temple of Justice, bringing together Andrew Jackson and Peter Cartwright, the Methodist preacher; and as further types Tommy Dye, the turfman, Father Orrin, the Roman Catholic priest, the fugitive Sisters of Charity, and various figures of frontier life. An intended dithyramb on Kentucky's past, it contains references to Audubon and Abe Lincoln of course, to "Tippecanoe," George Keats, the brother of the poet, Mitchell, the astronomer, the first